



State of Arizona

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Governor Jan Brewer Announces Real World Design Challenge Partnership

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today announced Arizona's participation in the Real World Design Challenge, an initiative to enhance high school science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. The Challenge is an annual high school competition run by a public-private partnership with the goal to encourage students to pursue careers in aeronautics and transportation.

"Through the Real World Design Challenge, Arizona students will compete with the best and brightest in the country to provide real-world solutions to complex engineering and design projects," said Governor Brewer. "This competition will increase interest in these key STEM fields, while allowing students to have fun at the same time."

By participating as a Real World Design Challenge state, Arizona students and teachers will receive a broad base of resources and expertise from partners in business, government and academia, and have access to cutting-edge engineering software and professional mentors. In addition, selected teams will have an opportunity to participate in a national competition held each year in Washington, D.C.

"The Arizona Department of Education is proud to serve as the point of contact for teachers and state officials in the Real World Design Challenge," said Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal. "This innovative high school competition has the potential of bringing hundreds of millions of dollars in resources to Arizona's classrooms in support of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. Increasing the focus on STEM education will help to create a 21st century workforce that is ready to compete in our expanding global economy."

Partnering with the Governor's Office on this initiative is the Arizona Department of Education, Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona Science Center and Science Foundation Arizona. Other state and national partners include the Aerospace States Association, Federal Aviation Administration, Boeing and Lockheed Martin, among others.

“The opportunity for professionals from the Arizona Department of Transportation to mentor students who are interested in science, technology, engineering and math will allow a partnership to emerge across the state to help develop the engineering leaders of tomorrow,” said ADOT Director John Halikowski. “This partnership presents a unique experience for students to engage in real-world problems, developing critical skills that Arizona needs today and in the future.”

“The Real World Design Challenge is an exciting opportunity for our students and our Nation as we move into the 21st Century,” said William C. Withycombe, regional administrator for the Federal Aviation Administration, Western-Pacific Region. “This program will ensure America remains the global aerospace leader and that the United States has the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world. We are glad to be a part of this unique and cutting edge competition.”

More information regarding the Real World Design Challenge can be found at ArizonaReady.com.

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